



Beaminster Town Council

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**756 PRESENT:** Cllr Woods (Chairman), Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkin, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Turner and Cllr Watts: also Christine Bright (Town Clerk)

**757 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton and Cllr Tuff.

**758 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 having been circulated were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**759 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATION**

No declarations of interest were received. The Town Clerk confirmed a dispensation had been awarded to Cllr Anderton and Cllr Watts to participate in discussion in respect of matters pertaining to the consideration of the precept for 2025/2026.

**760 PAYMENTS & RECIEPTS**

Members were tabled with details of the payments made for the month of December 2024 including cheque numbers 106016 to 106023 direct debits and bank payments; also cheque number 100056 in the sum of £198 from the CB3 account totalling £34,979.14 together with receipts received in the sum of £7,757.58 a copy of which are attached. Members **RESOLVED** adoption and payment as presented.

Concern was expressed with regard to the cost of the domain name renewal, the Town Clerk to clarify at the next meeting.

Cllr Dawkins, on behalf of the CB3 volunteers expressed his gratitude to the Council for the Christmas meal enjoyed by past and present volunteers, this year had been the first opportunity in six years that an official 'thank you' had been financially possible.

**761 BUDGET PROJECTIONS 2024/2025**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the budget projections to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Chairman took members through the figures page by page and sought questions or comments.

As members moved through the figures the Town Clerk clarified that:

- Final invoices in respect of Christmas lighting were expected in January that would provide a clearer picture as to the cost of the 2024 displays.

- A sum had been included to upgrade the CCTV cameras at the rear of the Public Hall, the quotations received were to be discussed.
- A sum had been included in the contract cleaning costs for public toilets pending the addition of a public toilet in the Memorial Playing Field
- A sum had been included to upgrade the CCTV system in the Memorial Playing Field, the quotations received were to be discussed.
- A sum had been included to repair the path from the rear of the pavilion to the access gate (Footpath 69)
- A sum had been included to meet the funding shortfall in respect of the controlled access to the Memorial Playing Field
- A budget saving in the region of £3,500 on the cemetery extension budget
- A sum had been included within the general contingency budget pending discussions with regard to the future management of the pavilion.

Members **NOTED** the observations and following consideration **AGREED** not to upgrade the CCTV at the rear of the Public Hall, the current system would provide adequate cover with minor adjustments. With regard to the system in the Memorial Playing Field it was **AGREED** to seek additional quotations for comparison.

The projections as presented had indicated a budget deficit in the region of £60,500.

## 762 BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2025/2026

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the draft budget framework for 2025/2026. The Chairman took members through the figures page by page and sought questions or comments.

As members moved through the figures the Town Clerk clarified that:

- The increase in employers NI in the region of £6,500 would have an impact on the staff budget in addition to the increase in the region of £9,500 staff incremental/cost of living increases.
- A sum had been included to acknowledge the ongoing safeguarding services provided by the staff at the Prout Bridge Project at the skate park and play area.
- Sums had been included to be able to consider appropriate grants/donations
- A sum had been included to fund VE Day commemorations in 2025
- A sum had been included to paint the front elevation of the Public Hall
- A sum had been included for contract cleaning of the public toilet in Memorial Playing Field
- General Contingency had been increased pending discussion with regard to the future management of the pavilion.

Members **NOTED** the figures and following consideration **AGREED** the framework as presented did not appear to have the flexibility for adjustment. The framework did not include funding for any large scale projects for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Pending final adjustments members **AGREED** to defer discussion with regard to possible precept levy to the Full Council meeting in January 2025.

## 763 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting **NOTED** as Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**764 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) ACT 1960**

Members **RESOLVED** that public and press be now excluded from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of financial implications with regard to future charitable responsibilities.

**(a) BCCP – Pavilion**

The Town Clerk advised discussions had taken place with the Trustees, some of whom had expressed a desire to resign. Legal, and other advice had been sought with regard to the Councils potential position in the long term and she briefed members of the detail.

Members **RESOLVED** in **PRINCIPLE** to proceed with the intention that the Council be appointed a corporate trustee of the BCCP.

**765 MEETING**

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.15pm

Chairman  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

